To reduce the debt burden of Oil Bonds, Government has rationalized taxes & duties on petroleum products, besides streamlining the delivery system of PDS Kerosene for better targetting of the subsidy and to plug leakages, encouraging the use of Bio-fuels, etc.

Loss to ONGC

†3801. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has suffered a loss of about Rs. 235 crores recently due to arbitrariness of the officers and wrong decisions;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any action against the officers who are responsible for this loss;

(c) if so, whether Government is formulating any effective scheme to check recurrence of the same; and

(d) *if so, the details thereof?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Officer of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in their report No. 11 of 2007 concerning Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have reported that delay in award of contract by ONGC resulted in re-tendering and award of the contract at a cost higher by Rs. 235.51 crore.

Reply to ONGC on the audit report has been obtained and a reply has been sent to the office of C&AG.

Production of Petroleum and Natural Gas

3802. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of petroleum and Natural Gas in India;

(b) the total production of Petroleum and Natural gas from the oil & gas fields abroad, by our Government companies; and

(c) what is our total demand; and the steps taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The total crude oil and natural gas production during the year 2007-08 was 34.106 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 32,405 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively.

(b) The total overseas production of crude oil & Gas by ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) during the year 2007-08 was 6.832 MMT and 1.928 BCM respectively.

(c) The total consumption of petroleum and gas during 2007-08 (Apr.-Feb.) was 116.7 MMT and 38512 Million Metric Square Cubic Meter (MMSCM) respectively.

The steps taken to meet the demand-supply gap are as follows:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.